

Disaffected and Delinquent Male Youth in Rwanda: Understanding Pathways to Delinquency and the Role of Rehabilitation and Vocational Skills Training



What are the main source of the youth Disaffection and delinquency ?

- the inability to get productive work;
- stability and background of the family with poor educational attainment and living in chronic poverty
- young male who migrate from rural to urban areas in search of employment are especially vulnerable.

Goals of the Research

The main goal of the research was to provide the Ministry of Youth with evidence based recommendations to enable the Ministry to:

- better design interventions to prevent male youth becoming disaffected and deter them from adopting delinquent lifestyles;
- develop a rehabilitation programme that supports disaffected and delinquent young men to reintegrate into society as productive citizens;
- determine what further research would enable them to better understand why young men become disaffected, engage in antisocial behaviour and turn to delinquency.

The findings from the research will enable the Government to:

- develop strategies to prevent young men becoming disaffected and deter them from becoming petty criminals;
- review the rehabilitation training programme in the light of the evaluation of graduates and trainers;
- consider what additional support might be put in place to better support graduates in becoming reintegrated into society as productive citizens;
- provide information on the intentions of graduates and their aims and aspirations for the future;
- provide a baseline study of a sample of graduates that can be followed up to enable the Government to measure the effectiveness of the programme and post graduation support and get detailed information on the outcomes for different groups of male youth.



The findings from the research provide:

- a better understanding of the characteristics and background of men who have become disaffected and engaged in petty criminal behaviour;
- a better understanding of the pathways to disaffection and delinquency;
- an evaluation of the rehabilitation programme by trainees on graduation;
- a picture of the intentions and aspirations of men on graduation from rehabilitation;
- A baseline cohort of graduates from a rehabilitation centre who can be followed to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme and provide detailed information on the characteristics of graduates who return to a life of petty crime and those who are reintegrated into society.



The purpose of the Iwawa Rehabilitation and Vocational Training Centre is to rehabilitate disaffected and delinquent male youth in a residential setting, provide them with vocational employability skills and on graduation support them in reintegrating into the community as productive citizens. Support in getting gainful employment is seen as central to this. The main aim is to provide them with the capability to become productive citizens on graduation from the programme



The programme of rehabilitation and training offered at the centre seems to match that which has been shown to most likely reform male delinquents. However, the literature suggests that community based training and rehabilitation programmes are more suited to first time and minor offenders with residential training reserved for more serious and habitual offenders; Without support following graduation there is a strong possibility of reoffending.



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